

## La Porte man arrested, charged with solicitation of a minor



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LA PORTE, Texas – The La Porte man who police said stalked a teenage girl as she was walking to school has had a long history of run-ins with the law.

Robert Swearingen was arrested and charged a few years ago for exposing himself to his neighbors. This time, he faces a charge of solicitation of a minor for an incident that occurred last Wednesday.

Authorities said he convinced a 16-year-old girl to get into his pickup truck and then told her he wanted to fondle her. After she repeatedly said no, he eventually dropped her off at her school.

"A school recourse officer was able to identify his vehicle and we managed to pick him up the next day," said La Porte Police Sgt. John Krueger.

The victim was never physically touched or assaulted, but Swearingen could face up to 10 years behind bars if he is convicted. Some parents expressed outrage over the incident.

"I am absolutely saddened by the fact that children are unable to be out there," said Ivonne Jobe.